c.) Amendments to the Claims.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 11, 13, 14, 21, 22, and 42, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Claim 1. (currently amended) A clasp comprising:

a hook portion;

a grip portion adjacent to the hook portion; and

an attachment portion, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected;

wherein the hook portion is formed from multiple straight sections and includes a first straight section, a second straight section and a third straight section, wherein the first straight section is connected to and perpendicular with the second straight section and the second straight section is connected to and perpendicular with the third straight section, and said hook portion, when attached to a connecting surface, spreads force applied by the hook portion across said connecting surface.

Claim 2. (original) The clasp of claim 1, further comprising a cord attached at one terminus of said cord to the cord attachment portion.

Claim 3. (original) The clasp of claim 2, further comprising a second clasp attached to another terminus of said cord.

Claim 4. (original) The clasp of claim 2, wherein the cord is stretchable.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The clasp of claim ~~2, wherein the card is a bungee cord~~ 1, wherein the grip portion is ergonomically molded.

Claim 6. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the first section is longer than the second section.

Claim 7. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the second section is longer than the third section.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 1, wherein said first, second and third sections are in the same two-dimensional plane.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 1, wherein at least two of said first, second and third sections are in parallel two-dimensional planes.

Claim 10. (canceled).

Claim 11. (currently amended) The clasp of claim ~~42~~ 43, wherein the single shaped rod is rounded.

Claim 12. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a metal alloy, aluminum, brass, hardened plastic, steel, titanium, and combinations thereof.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp is comprised of steel or aluminum.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The clasp of claim ~~1, wherein the clasp is comprised of aluminum~~ 5, wherein the grip portion is ergonomically molded as a curved, rounded rod.

Claim 15. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein a pinch section separates the grip portion from the attachment portion.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 15, wherein the pinch section prevents a cord attached to the attachment portion from entering the grip portion.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the first section is attached to grip portion.

Claim 18. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp secures equipment to the vehicle.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp attaches to a rack of a vehicle and is capable of securing equipment to the vehicle.

Claim 20. (original) The clasp of claim 19, wherein the equipment comprises a ladder.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A clasp comprising a hook portion, a grip portion and an attachment portion, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected, the hook portion comprising a first straight section, a second straight section and a third straight section, wherein the first straight section is connected to and angled with the second section straight section, the second straight section connected to and angled with the third section, and said hook portion, when attached to a connecting surface, spreads force applied by the hook portion across said connecting surface.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A device comprising a pair of clasps and a flexible cord connecting the pair of clasps, each clasp comprises a single rounded rod which is bent along two dimensions into a hook portion, ~~a~~ an ergonomically shaped grip portion, a cord attachment portion, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected, and a pinch section ~~formed from a shaped rounded rod~~, wherein the pinch section prevents the flexible cord from entering the grip portion, and wherein the hook portion is adjacent to the grip portion and comprises multiple straight sections including a first straight section, a second straight section and a third straight section, and said hook portion, when attached to a connecting surface, spreads force applied by one or more of the straight sections f the hook portion across said connecting surface.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the hook portion of each clasp of said pair of clasps has a first section, a second section and a third section.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The device of claim 23, wherein the first section is

connected to the second section and perpendicular to the second section, the second section is attached to the third section and perpendicular to the third section, and all sections are configured in the same two-dimensional plane.

Claim 25. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the first section is attached to the grip portion.

Claim 26. (original) The device of claim 22, wherein the cord is a bungee cord.

Claim 27. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the shaped rounded rod of each clasp is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a metal allay, aluminum, brass, hardened plastic, steel, titanium, and combinations thereof.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the shaped rounded rod of each clasp is comprised of steel.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the shaped rounded rod of each clasp is comprised of aluminum.

Claim 30. (original) The device of claim 22, wherein the device secures equipment to a vehicle.

Claim 31. (original) The device of claim 22, wherein the device attaches to a rack on the vehicle.

Claim 32. (previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the equipment comprises a ladder.

Claims 33. – 38. (canceled).

Claim 39. (original) A securing device comprising a plurality of flexible cords having two ends, wherein one end of each cord is connected to one or more other cords at a single

position and wherein the other ends of the cords are connected to the clasp of claim 1.

Claim 40. (original) The securing device of claim 39, wherein the single position comprises a ring.

Claim 41. (original) The securing device of claim 39, wherein the single position comprises a knot.

Claim 42. (currently amended) A clasp comprising a hook portion, a grip portion and an attachment portion all of which are formed from a single rod bent into a two-dimensional configuration, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected and located on opposite sides of the clasp, the hook portion comprising a first section, a second section and a third section, wherein the first section is connected to and at an angle with the second section, the second section connected to and at an angle with the third section, and said hook portion, when attached to a connecting surface, spreads force applied by the hook portion across said connecting surface.

Claim 43. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp is formed from a single shaped rod.